

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, EFIN, ETRD, XF

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF AMERICAN EXPRESS EXECUTIVES CLARK AND BLISS

1. HOWARD L. CLARK, CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
AND RICHARD M. BLISS, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN EXPRESS INTER-
NATIONAL BANKING CORPORATION, PLAN TO VISIT MIDDLE EAST
APRIL 24-30 ACCORDING TO FOLLOWING ITINERARY:

CAIRO APRIL 24-25

BEIRUT APRIL 26

JIDDA APRIL 27

RIYADH APRIL 28

DHAHRAN APRIL 29

KUWAIT APRIL 30

2. CLARK AND BLISS, WHO WILL TRAVEL BY COMPANY AIRCRAFT,
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WILL BE LOOKING AT BANKING, TOURISM AND OTHER INVESTMENT

OPPORTUNITIES. IN CONVERSATION APRIL 10 WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY, BLISS REFERRED TO PROPOSAL CLARK AND HE EXPECT TO MAKE TO EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT FOR TWO NILE RIVER CRUISE BOATS AS GROUNDWORK FOR EXPLORING TOURIST AND BANKING OPPORTUNITIES IN EGYPT. BLISS CITED INVESTMENT BANKING SUBSIDIARY (AMERICAN EXPRESS MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT CO.) RECENTLY LAUNCHED IN BEIRUT. EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN SAUDI ARABIA, WHERE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY FOR LOCAL INVESTMENT BANKING OPERATION. BLISS SAID BANK VIEWED KUWAIT, WHERE AMERICAN EXPRESS MANAGES MUTUAL FUND, MAINLY AS

SOURCE OF FUNDS. AMERICAN EXPRESS, HOWEVER, INTERESTED IN BRANCH BANKING POSSIBILITIES IN ABU DHABI, DUBAI AND BAHRAIN.

3. BLISS AND CLARK LOOK FORWARD, IF CONVENIENT, TO MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADORS IN RESPECTIVE CAPITALS. REQUEST POSTS EXTEND APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE IF REQUESTED. KISSINGER

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